

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to come to the table and urge Speaker PELOSI to come to the table to negotiate an end to this shutdown.

This week, Democrats called us back to Washington to solve this problem, but they voted against paying Federal workers three times over the past week, while Republicans have been standing up for those who have now missed paychecks.

It has been 15 days since the Speaker has sat down to negotiate with the President.

Last week, I went to the White House for what was supposed to be a bipartisan meeting to discuss ending this shutdown and, unfortunately, none of my Democratic colleagues showed up.

Before Democrats even heard President Trump's proposal offering a solution for DACA recipients and TPS individuals in return for border security, they rejected it.

Speaker PELOSI gave the longest speech ever in this Chamber, on protecting DACA recipients, but now she is refusing to provide certainty for them.

We have an opportunity to get real border security and protect DACA recipients. It is time to set politics aside and for the Speaker of the House to go to the table, end this shutdown, and negotiate a deal with the President.

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(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I was in my district over the weekend. We had a couple of marches. We had a Women's March. We had a march for MLK Day.

A man approached me, and he said: Representative KIRKPATRICK, I work for the National Park Service. I am furloughed. I have no income. I have missed two paychecks.

He said: My 9-year-old son gave me his Christmas gift card to help our family get by.

He had tears in his eyes, and I am tearing right now just telling that story, because this shutdown is affecting families, children.

The instability that these children are feeling—and we don't talk about that enough—is going to affect them for the rest of their lives.

We have got to open the government, and we have got to do it now.

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(Mr. BEYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I received an email Friday night from a young lawyer I know in northern Virginia. I met him last year when he had just hung out his shingle for a solo practice.

He was desperate. His one big client is a Federal Government contractor who told him he would not be paid for December or for January because of the government shutdown.

He wrote me because he had just received an eviction notice from his landlord: come up with the rent for January by Wednesday, noon, or face immediate eviction.

I connected him with our local government office on emergency assistance. He got some meaningful help. He reached out to a few nonprofits and got some more. He was only \$800 short yesterday, and the landlord agreed to wait another month.

Yes, the shutdown has left 800,000 Federal employees without the money for life's necessities, but it is also harming American citizens far and wide, cruelly and unnecessarily, victims of the inevitable multiplier effects of a Federal Government failing its fiscal responsibility.

This should be the last ever Federal shutdown. We must never again give a President the power to hold the most powerful and best managed government hostage to his whims, obsessions, and political knavery.

Mr. President, let our people go.

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(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, to all my colleagues, I apologize. I may speak just a little longer than 1 minute—not much.

Madam Speaker, I was sitting in my office just a few minutes ago and Representative MICHAEL WALTZ, whom I do not know, from the State of Florida rose and said he was here in an empty Capitol.

Scores of my fellow Democrats are here because they are outraged that we have shut down the people's government, and they are here, Mr. WALTZ, to urge the President of the United States and MITCH MCCONNELL to open up the people's government. That is why they are here. They haven't gone home, Congressman WALTZ. We are here.

I don't see anybody over here.

Madam Speaker, I rise to join with my colleagues in highlighting the absurdity of the Trump-McConnell shutdown and share some of the ways, just some few ways, it is affecting Americans in my district.

Now, you can go to this website, trumpshutdownstories.us, and get scores more stories than I will be able to tell on this floor in this short time I will speak.

Maryland's Fifth District, which I have the great honor of having rep-

resented for the last 38 years, has 62,000 Federal employees, tens of thousands of whom are not getting paid, and some who are being forced—no, who are voluntarily working because they love this country and they love their jobs, and they are working without pay.

Is that any way to treat any employee, much less an employee working for their government?

One woman from Prince George's County, Maryland, wrote to tell me that her husband, an astrophysicist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, is furloughed. She isn't working because they have an infant, and he, the only source of their income.

Another constituent wrote to tell me that he serves in the Coast Guard. He said:

As I was putting my 9-year-old son to bed last night, he asked me, "Dad, how come they are making you work without pay?"

He went on to say:

I gave him an answer about having taken an oath and that it is my duty to serve, but he was still confused.

I share that young child's concern and confusion. Why would we do this? What would lead us to show such disrespect for those who carry out our policy?

All Americans should be confused about why our hardworking public servants would be forced to work without pay or be told to go home and wait while a paycheck doesn't come.

It is not just Federal employees and contractors who are affected.

And, by the way, we are going to repay the Federal employees, as we should. But the contractors, the small business people, the small shop owners in my district who have thousands of their customers who aren't being paid and, therefore, are not customers.

One woman from St. Mary's County, the county in which I live, said:

We were scheduled to close on our home on January 11, and we received a phone call 3 days before that we would not be going to closing because our loan was on hold due to the government shutdown. A time that is supposed to be the happiest, and here we sit with our house in boxes and living week to week with a landlord. We don't know if we will lose our home.

Madam Speaker, I would tell President Trump to listen to these stories, listen to the humanity that must be in you, be sympathetic, be empathetic, be caring about these people who are your constituents, whom you are pledged to protect.

Madam Speaker, I would ask the President and Senator MCCONNELL to hear the voices of men and women their shutdown policies are hurting. They are going to hear many more stories.

Democrats have voted now 11 times to end this shutdown, and Republicans and the President have blocked these measures again and again.

Let me say, Madam Speaker, to those who might be listening: We passed Republican bills to open up this government—not our bills, not partisan bills,